



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 26, 2007

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Senate Bill 1046 - An Act Subjecting Certain Department of Children and Families Facilities to the Department of Public Health Licensure Requirements

House Bill 7113 - An Act Concerning Licensure of Facilities Serving Children by the Department of Public Health

The Department of Public Health opposes Senate Bill 1046 and House Bill 7113; and provides the following information:

Senate Bill 1046 proposes to have the Department of Public Health (DPH) assume the licensing functions of four Department of Children and Families (DCF) facilities. These four facilities provide complex services to children in a very sensitive population of children with involved service needs. It is also our understanding that these four facilities provide very different and unique services.

House Bill 7113 proposes to have DPH assume all licensing functions for mental health and day treatment facilities which are currently regulated by DCF.

DPH does not have the expertise, appropriately trained staff, or adequate resources to assume these responsibilities while continuing to assure high quality services to this population. Additionally, this bill would have significant fiscal impact as well as effect DPH's ability to fulfill already existing mandates.

Should this proposal move forward, DPH would need ample time to review the structure, processes and outcomes of these complex programs, and adequate resources to address the special needs of this population. Prior to transferring these programs, the department recommends that a study be conducted to ascertain what the most appropriate system of licensure should be for these facilities and what resources would be needed to assure a smooth transition if the recommendation is to transfer the licensure system is approved.

Thank you for consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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